

Farmers' Department.

Hints on the Preservation of Grain.

Dr. Lee in the *Country Gentleman*, on the subject of preserving grain, says:

"Grain will never be properly or safely preserved in the American climates, until we adopt the practice of Julius Caesar and other Roman Generals, who led large armies to the conquest of many nations, and mostly in hot climates, where grain is kept with the greatest difficulty. The system was old in Egypt when Joseph stored up bread-corn in seven years of great fruitfulness, to feed unknown millions during seven years of blight and sterility."

It was probably old in Persia, when Cyrus found out ways to march two great armies into the city of Babylon at once, and nearly destroyed it; and yet this system is hardly known to one grain-grower in a thousand in this land of books, schools and colleges. Spain retains some of the old Phoenician ideas and practices; for Bonaparte found these well filled and sealed underground store-rooms, in which wheat or maize might be kept uninjured a thousand years. Julius Caesar built granaries in Spain of blue lime stone and Roman cement, as impervious to air and moisture when closed, as a glass bottle, hermetically sealed. These rock granaries—huge stone jugs—are as perfect now as they were some 2,000 years ago. Wheat and other grains were dried perfectly in the sun just before being put up and sealed from the air. The mouth of the granary or jug had a stone stopper and that covered with good cement and pitch. How could dry wheat or corn ever begin to hurt in so dry an atmosphere? Without knowing anything about chemistry and the laws of germination, fermentation and decay, the ancients learned very early how to store away and preserve indefinitely the raw material for making their daily bread.

Brick, burnt nearly to vitrification, are as impervious to air and moisture as glass. Indeed glass is made of clay in some places, and in Syria, Babylonia and Persia, common farmers dig pits in the ground, like a dry well in the Southern States, and burn the bottom and sides, and then use them for storing grain. A layer of dry straw covers the bottom, and keeps the grain from touching the sides and when full the pits are covered tight. Many hide provisions and goods in the south in this way, to my knowledge. Southerners are taught many a lesson not taught in colleges, which their posterity will never forget."

Fruit in Cellars.

Every one has doubtless observed the great difference in cellars for keeping winter fruit. Some are damp and warm, causing rapid decay and mouldiness; and others are cool and dry, retaining the fruit in perfection a long time. The possession of such good cellars is often regarded as a sort of good luck, over which the owners have not much control; and that bad cellars are a sort of necessary evil that cannot be helped. This is a great mistake, as means may be easily adopted for preventing the loss of valuable fruit. A wet cellar, for example, may be greatly improved by coating its bottom and sides with water-line cement—which, being impervious to moisture will exclude any excessive amount. Not less important is proper ventilation. We have seen a large share of a fine crop in an excellent cellar, spoiled by closing all the windows in autumn and thus retaining the exhalations until the glass was densely covered with the moisture. The prompt adoption of the proper remedy, namely, a thorough ventilation, and the removal of these noxious fumes soon arrested the destructive process. Every owner of a cellar for keeping fruit should constantly observe its condition. If too moist, currents of air should be allowed to pass through it to carry off the dampness. If too warm, which is often the case, the admission of cold air. The use of a thermometer, or even two or three permanently hung up in different parts of the cellar, will enable the attendant to regulate the temperature with accuracy, and without mere guessing; and the nearer it can be made to approach the freezing point without actual danger of frost, the longer the fruit will keep, and the more perfect will be its flavor and condition.—*Country Gentleman*.

CUTS OF FACTS IN CUTTING TIME.—Cut timber from the middle of September to the middle of December, and you cannot get a worm into it, October and November are perhaps the best months, and sure to avoid the worms. You cut from March to June and you cannot save the timber from worms or borers. May used to be called "peeling time" in my boyhood; much was then done in preparing bark for the

tanneries, when the sap is up in the trunk, and all the pores are full of sap; whereas in October all the pores are empty—then is the time to cut, and there will be no worms.

When you see an ox-bow with the bark tight, there are no worms, no powderpost, and you cannot separate it from the wood, and what is true in one kind is true in all kinds of timber, and every kind has its peculiar kind of worms, and these worms work for many years. I have found them alive and at work in white oak spokes that had been in my wagon over twelve years, and they were much larger than at first; they do not stop in the sap, but continue up the solid part. I do not think of buying timber unless it is cut in the time above alluded to.

I have wondered that there has not been more said on this subject, as it is one of great importance, even for firewood, and especially for ship building, &c.—*Correspondent Boston Recorder*.

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A ACT relating to closing the affairs and redeeming and paying the bills and notes of the Franklin County Bank:

SECTION 1. The act entitled "An Act incorporating the Franklin County Bank," approved November 1, 1849, is hereby so amended as to limit the time for which it shall remain open, and have succeeded to the first day of June, 1865, instead of the first day of January, 1867, as contained in said act.

SECTION 2. Said Bank shall, as soon as may be convenient after the passage of this act, cause a notice of the same and of the purpose of said Bank to terminate its existence on the first day of June, 1865, to be published in the Franklin Journal, in the city of Boston, and in the Boston Journal, a newspaper printed in the city of New York. Said notice shall also state that all money due said Bank, and all amounts due by said Bank, will be redeemed and paid by said Bank. And after the publication of said notice, and that notice be laid before the court of equity in this State, to redeem or pay any of its bills or notes not presented for redemption or payment before the time fixed in this act; and any bonds, which may have been given by the officers of said Bank, or by any of its agents, shall be held liable for damages, to the full amount of said bills or notes, and damages upon that sum as aforesaid, it must be left with the officer receiving the deposit to be forwarded to the Treasury Department.

This act shall take effect from its passage.

Approved Nov. 22, 1864.

N NOTICE is hereby given that it is the purpose of the Franklin County Bank to terminate its existence in pursuance of the foregoing act, and all bills or notes of said Bank not presented to said Bank for payment before the first day of June, 1865, will not be redeemed or paid by said Bank.

And after the publication of said notice, and that notice be laid before the court of equity in this State, to redeem or pay any of its bills or notes not presented for redemption or payment before the time fixed in this act.

This act shall take effect from its passage.

Approved Nov. 22, 1864.

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